

Archdiocese of Baltimore

Creating and Effectively Using a Teaching Webpage Using Web 2.0

Course Number: MSDE #06-66-16

Credits: 3 CPD credits

Semester: Summer 2009

Instructor: Paul Kellermann

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Location: Mount Saint Joseph High School
Room 25 in Xavier Hall (2nd floor Graphic Design Lab)

Class Time: Monday, July 27 – Friday, July 31, 8:30 am – 4:00 pm
Five (5) in-class meetings, plus short reading assignments.

Prerequisites: Familiarity with the Windows Environment
Ability to use a web browser and email

Overview:

This course will expose students to a range of Web 2.0 applications including blogs, wikis, podcasts with the recording program Audacity, RSS feeds, Google Docs and iGoogle, social bookmarking, and image sharing. Discussion and reflection on how to and ways to implement these technologies for K-12 student collaboration and creativity are important elements of the course.

Learning Theory:

The children we teach at the K-12 level are digital natives while most teachers, especially veterans, are digital immigrants. We must adapt to the learning styles and skills of today's students. Students have "digital lifestyle expectations" that allow them to process information and multitask more easily than adults. They expect multimedia, the Internet and Web, and instant communication in their daily lives. Teachers who leverage this certainty may create a learning environment that engages learners and is rich with possibilities.

Digital Natives crave *interactivity*—an immediate response to their each and every action. Traditional schooling provides very little of this compared to the rest of their world.
On the Horizon (NCB University Press, Vo 6, December 2001) I. 9 No.© 2001
Marc Prensky

Learning Outcomes:

Through analysis and hands-on experience with each tool students should be able to:

- Describe applications and uses of the various Web 2.0 tools we will study
- Identify features, benefits, strengths, limitations, and resources of each of the tools and how the tools are integrated to create a final product
- Demonstrate the capacity to use the Web 2.0 tools presented in the course by completing lab work and creating a small Web 2.0 e-learning platform
- Create a sample lesson or unit incorporating *some* of the Web 2.0 tools

Course Design:

Students will gain firsthand experience in using several Web 2.0 tools in this lab-based course. It is a survey course that introduces fundamental concepts of each tool, and sometimes bells and whistles too. Student work will be published to the Web via the Wikispaces wiki service.

Students are provided a demonstration and guided practice of each of the steps then opportunities for practice using the products to create a final project.

Course Evaluation Methods:

- Successful completion of each of the lab exercises – 60% of grade
- Course Project – Web 2.0 portal – 30% of grade
- Participation/Homework – 10% of grade
- Attendance – one excused absence permitted unless there are extenuating circumstances at the discretion of the instructor and the program director.

Grading Policy:

Using a ten point scale: A=90-100, B=80-89, etc.

A – Takes an active interest in class, goes beyond what is required on all assignments, and provides valuable insights during discussion

B – Participates well and takes an interest in all assignments

C – Does what is required

D – Does what is required but student lacks in participation and engagement in class

F – Does not complete assignments effectively

Required Supplies:

- A USB Flash drive – 512MB+
- An Internet-enabled computer system at home
- A consumer-end digital camera with video clip capability (optional)

Course Schedule:

7/27: Introduction/Blogs/RSS/iGoogle

Introduction: Greetings, Course Goals, Expectations
Set up gmail, iGoogle
Create Blogs in Blogger
Set up Google Reader for RSS feeds
Add educational blog feeds and own blog to Reader and organize feeds
Add 2 classmates' feeds to your Reader
Add reader gadget to iGoogle
Play with gadgets in iGoogle

7/28: Wikis

Create wikispaces account
Join class wiki
Create own wiki – use teacher account
Adding pages, editing navigation, customizing
Uploading and accessing files
Embedding images, video, Google Map, widgets
Introduce Teacher Tube, Vimeo, Blip.tv
Google shared docs
Add shared docs to iGoogle page

7/29: Podcasting

Create account through Gcast
Create podcast (audio blog) feed and customize
Use Audacity for recording voice and creating MP3
Upload MP3 and change options for episode
Embed widget in wiki, upload mp3 to wikispaces and/or blog
Add RSS feed to Google Reader
Rip from CD w/ Windows Media Player
Create new MP3 and episode and upload

7/30: Social Bookmarking/Image Sharing

Create Delicious account
Bookmark favorite sites
Add Delicious to iGoogle and Embed in Wiki
Create Picasa account
Picasa/Flickr: image management and sharing on the Web
Embed Picasa slideshow in Wiki

7/31: Wrap-up

Lessons Learned and Best Practices
Presentations and Party!

Lab Work Evaluation (60%):

Deliverable / Category	Point Value	Comments
Blog	10	This is where your public journal goes.
RSS	5	Create a Really Simple Syndication news feed.
iGoogle	5	Custom Web homepage
Google Docs	5	Shared documents, spreadsheets, and presentations
Wiki	15	A powerful read-write Web application.
Podcast	10	You will create at least two audio episodes
Delicious – social bookmarks	5	Share bookmarks online
Picasa – image sharing	5	Share images and create slideshows

Homework (10%):

Blog entries: One original post each day, a reflection on what we did in that class. Write a summary of personal learning; ask yourself, “What did I get out of the lesson and (how) could I use the technology in my teaching after this course?” If you do not believe it is useful for your objectives, so state. Reply to at least two classmates’ posts. Also, comment to my blog posts.

There are also brief Web articles to read before each class.

Project – Teacher Web Portal (30%):

Create a web portal (wiki: must have a web site) and a lesson plan for using any of the technologies we explore in class. Your wiki will already be created in class. Incorporate at least one application into your wiki (podcast, blog, RSS, bookmarking, image sharing). Your lesson plan may be a daily plan or a unit plan since the use of your site should not be limited to one activity. It is important to preview the activities we will do later in the course so you may consider including them in your project.

At the conclusion of the course students will present their projects to classmates.